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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES  
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## THE RECORD SIZE FOR THE GIANT TIGER PRAWN *PENAEUS MONODON FABRICIUS\**

A giant sized *P. monodon* measuring 363 mm in total length and weighing 440 g was obtained at Bombay. It appears to be the first record of its kind, being the highest for the species available from its natural habitat. General characters and comparison of the sizes of *P. monodon* recorded by different workers is given in Table 1.

A giant penaeid prawn *Penaeus monodon* Fabricius, commercially known as 'giant tiger', 'tiger' or 'jumbo' prawn and locally called 'Jinga', was collected at New Ferry Wharf landing centre from a mechanized shrimp trawler operating in 50-60 m depth off Janjccera-

Murud coast on 16-9-'89. The trawler landed, along with the catch of other penaeid prawns, 8.5 kg of tiger prawns, comprising 37 large sized specimens, ranging in size from 229-255 mm for males and 261-363 mm for females. Two specimens, both females in early maturing state, measuring 342 mm and 363 mm in total length and weighing 390 and 440 g in fresh condition respectively, appear to have the largest recorded size for the species from its natural habitat.

The largest specimens has been deposited in the reference collection (Reg. No CMFRSC - CD - 121) of Crustacean Fisheries Division of C.M.F.R. Institute,

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Cochin. The following observations were made on the morphometric and other characteristics of the largest specimen.

1. Total length of the prawn (from the tip of the rostrum to the tip of the telson) .... 363 mm.

2. Carapace length (the distance between the post orbital margin and the median posterior margin of the carapace) ... 106 mm.

3. *Rostrum*: Sigmoid, with 8 dorsal and 3 ventral teeth. It extends slightly beyond the tip of the antennular peduncle. Adrostral carina reaches to the epigastric teeth and the post rostral carina with feeble indication of sulcus, carina reaching the posterior edge of the carapace.

4. *Carapace*: Uniformly glabrous with well developed antennal and hepatic spines. Gastro-frontal groove is absent. Gastro-orbital carina occupies 3/7 distance between post - orbital margin of carapace and hepatic spine. Hepatic carina is prominent, almost horizontal and distinctly separated from the base of antennal carina.

5. *Antennule*: Antennular flagella banded, subequal and distinctly longer than the peduncle.

6. *Maxilleped III*: Endoped extends much beyond the tip of the basal segment of the antennular peduncle. Dactyle of endoped is 2/3 length of propodus.

7. *IV Pereopod*: Surpasses the length of the first pereopod.

8. *V pereopod* : Without exopod.

9. *Abdomen*: Glabrous, carination starts on the 1/3 of the 4th somite

10. *Telson* : Unarmed and pointed.

11. *Thelycum* : With lateral plates forming tumid lips, anterior process concave and the posterior process subtriangular, partly inserted below the thelycal plates.

12. The specimen shows brownish body with dark brown, blue and cream-yellow transverse bands on the abdomen. Antennae reddish brown, antennules

TABLE 1. Length and weight characteristics of *P. Monodon* recorded earlier

Length of <i>P. Monodon</i>	Weight (mm)	Weight (g)	Reference
337	—	—	Miquel, 1984. FAO Species Identification Sheet. Western Indian Ocean, Vol 6.
337	—	—	Mohamed, 1969. CMFRI Bull., 14: 68 - 69.
336	130	130	Holthuis 1980. FAO Fish Synopsis (125), Vol 1, 261 pp.
71.8*	150.9	150.9	Hall, 1962. Fish Publ. Colln. London, 17:220 pp.
336	150	150	Grey <i>et al.</i> , 1983. A Guide to Australian Penaeid Prawn, 64 pp.
270	240	240	Motoh and Kurunuma, 1980. Field Guides: Edible Crustacea Philippines, 20 pp.
290	270	270	Aravindakshan and Karabhari, 1985. Science and culture, 51: 410 - 411.

\* Carapace length.

banded while pleopods with crimson borders.

Length and weight records of the species from India and other parts of the world are given in Table 1. It is seen that the present size as well as the weight are the highest so far recorded for the species. *P. monodon* is the largest penaeid prawn known. Among the non-penaeid 'giant river prawn', *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* DeMan is the largest known species but the maximum recorded size of it is 340 mm. Therefore, the present recorded size of *P. monodon* appears to be the largest not only for the penaeid prawns alone but for all other species of prawns.